

Parent Carer Support Group Network Event Inclusive Mainstream Practice Launch



Monday 23rd February 2026
10 till 12.30
Pudsey Civic Hall, Stanningley, LS28 5TA



The Leeds Parent Carer Forum and Voice, Influence & Change Team at Leeds City Council host three parent carer support group network events a year (February, June & October).

The events are an opportunity to:

- Hear about the top issues raised by parents and carers in Leeds.
- Hear from services about their responses to the issues raised and next steps.
- Network with other parent carer support groups.

The event

The parent carer support group network event took place on Monday 23rd February 2026 at Pudsey Civic Hall. 33 parent carers booked to attend, with 15 attending on the day. There was representation from the Leeds Parent Carer Forum, Sunshine and Smiles, Lotus Links and NEUROSTARS.

The event covered:

- A welcome from Pete Thorpe, Interim Director Children and Families.
- Introduction to the Inclusive Mainstream Practice (IMP).
- An opportunity for parents and carers to feedback about the IMP.

Leeds Parent Carer Forum

The Leeds Parent Carer Forum are all local parents and carers whose children and young people have SEND.

By working in co-production they aim to make a positive difference so that services are better at meeting the needs of all local SEND families.

They listen to local families and work in partnership with the Local Authority (Education and Social Care) and health providers to champion children's needs and influence strategy, policy, pathways and practice. They highlight where local services are working well and constructively challenge when changes or improvements are needed to be made.

How your voice is shared

All issues shared with the Leeds Parent Carer Forum are added to the issues tracker which is shared with Local Authority (Education and Social Care) and Health (NHS and ICB) at various boards and meetings.

The issues raised also feed into the Self Evaluation Form (SEF) which is used by OFSTED to assess how well the LA understands areas for improvement and effectiveness.

Join the parent carer forum and give your views

<https://www.leedsparentcarerforum.co.uk/register-with-us/>



Inclusive Mainstream Practice (IMP)

Parent carer survey

In Autumn 2025, we carried out a parent carer survey to help us better understand the experiences of children and young people with SEND who attend mainstream settings. The survey was open for four weeks on the Local Offer and shared widely through the Parent Carer Forum. In total, 148 parents and carers responded.

This means what we're looking at is a *snapshot*. It doesn't represent every parent's experience, and it won't give us all the answers. But it does give us a really valuable insight into how families are experiencing things right now.

Purpose

- To outline the provision and support that mainstream settings should be able to provide for all children and young people including those with Special Educational Needs and/or disabilities (SEND) attending an educational setting in Leeds.
- Help settings consider what extra support might be relevant for all children and young people who are not progressing at the rate they would expect.
- Help parents understand what settings will be doing.

Intended impact

- Increased teacher confidence in supporting learners with SEND.
- Improved parental confidence in mainstream schools.
- Resources distributed more effectively.



We respect and trust everyone in the process

We support and enable everyone to be heard

We are clear on the way forward and act on what has been agreed

We are honest, respect confidentiality and try to understand everyone's circumstances and point of view



We work in partnership

We welcome and value everyone's views

We seek honest and transparent feedback

We understand that our different roles, responsibilities and perspectives are the key to good coproduction



We communicate well

We listen to everyone's views

We feed back to everyone about what we have heard and what we have done

We make sure all communication is simple, accurate and easy to understand

We give everyone the information and support they need to participate



We are inclusive

We make everyone feel welcome, comfortable and that they belong

We give everyone the time and space to be heard

We make sure that everyone can participate - for example meeting venues are accessible, we meet at suitable times, we provide interpreters where we can

Feedback and suggestions

Areas discussed	Suggestions
IMP overview and FAQ documents	<p>Video/slides would provide more accessible overview.</p> <p>Translations into other languages</p> <p>Easy read versions/read aloud</p> <p>Could this be sent to schools (A5 leaflet) & QR code with link to site?</p>
Understanding the content	<p>Provide information in different formats e.g. flowcharts/maps of what is included on main site</p> <p>Create format for schools (advice on preparing for a meeting)</p> <p>Consider AI 'bunny' to help navigate the site.</p>
Linking to other areas of Local offer/Support	<p>E.g. what to do when pupils have high levels of need (link to EHCNA/EHCP local offer pages)</p> <p>signpost to other areas of LLO e.g. Complaints/support etc</p>
What is missing?	<p>Could we add links to SENDIF plus funding? (some schools/nurseries say they can't attend until EHCP is in place)</p>
Access to site	<p>Raise awareness/profile of site: E.g. IMP Leeds</p> <p>Monitor site usage to see how often this is accessed</p> <p>Consider using AI to support easy search on site</p>
Parent carer – annual questionnaire	<p>Consider accessibility issues for families</p> <p>Advertise in schools/provide link to questionnaire</p>